

Feasibility of Publishing a Non-Classified Geographical Handbook

Report by the Joint Intelligence Study Publishing Board

Reference: Minutes, J.T.S., 98th Meeting
16 August 1946

The Problem

1. To study the feasibility of preparing Geographical Handbooks based on JANIS omitting all classified material.

Facts Bearing on the Problem

2. Numerous requests from outside agencies, Universities, and scientific organizations for copies of JANIS indicate a strong public demand for information on foreign areas.

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4. The Government Printing Office quoted the following estimates of cost

	1,000	1,000
Letter press printing with tipped in halftones	\$7374.26	\$1372.44
Letter press printing with half tones sized in	7173.57	930.23
Varitype justified column " " " "	9124.97	883.06
Varitype straight " " " "	6122.17	883.06
Electromatic (IBM) justified " " " "	4098.80	883.06
Electromatic (IBM) straight " " " "	3250.41	883.06

The cost of preparing Chapter I of JANIS 75 as a Terrain Handbook in 4,100 copies was \$3,375.17.

5. The handbook would not be self-liquidating if sold through Superintendent of Documents because initiating agency must bear cost of initial printing. Superintendent of Documents prints added copies and sells them at cost. No part of proceeds from such sales are turned over to originating agency.

6. The Handbooks might be printed by a commercial publishing company. This office received a letter of inquiry from Harcourt, Brace and Company on 1 August 1946 indicating the interest of that company in considering the feasibility of publishing JANIS on a commercial basis should they be declassified.

JCS Declassification/Release Instructions on File

DOCUMENT NO. 10
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 29 JUL 1980
AUTH: HR 70-2

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REVIEWER: ☐

7. The preparation of the manuscript for the Geographical Handbook might be done in any one of the following ways:

a. Project might be farmed out by contributing agencies to professionals in colleges or research institutions to be written prior to the writing of the JANIS chapter. By this method no classified material could find its way into the nonclassified study and the study could form the basis for the JANIS chapter. This method would lighten the work load of JANIS contributors by providing them with a digest of all basic data available through library research.

b. Contributor might write the JANIS chapter and then prepare a copy omitting all classified material. This method would probably increase the contributors work load by 10% to 20 percent in most instances.

c. The JANIS chapter as written by the contributor, might be turned over to a committee set up by the National Research Council for rewriting - omitting classified material and infringements on copyright. Such rewrite would probably be quite extensive, and in many cases, might combine several JANIS into a comprehensive handbook on a political unit (e.g. combine JANIS 81, 84, and 85 into one study for Japan). In some instances many of the personnel who wrote the original studies might be available as members of the rewrite committee.

Handbooks prepared by this method would probably deviate considerably from the JANIS outline, and could be made more nearly comparable with the Geographical Handbooks by the Naval Intelligence Division of the British Admiralty.

The work load of the contributing agencies would not be increased if this method were adopted. However, some financial aid to the rewrite committee might be required.

Conclusion

8. The Joint Intelligence Study Publishing Board believes that the preparation of Geographical Handbooks of a nonclassified nature is desirable and feasible.

9. It is suggested that the Joint Topographical Subcommittee determine whether further investigation of the plans outlined in paragraphs 6 and 7c be made.